

DAILY BULLETIN

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UNITED STATES, EUROPEAN UNION COMMITTED TO HELPING IRAQ, BUSH SAYS

President reports constructive discussions, favorable outcomes at summit

The United States and the European Union “are united in our determination to help the people of Iraq,” President Bush said during a joint press availability June 26 after the U.S.-EU Summit in Shannon, Ireland.

Standing with Prime Minister of Ireland Bertie Ahern and President of the European Commission Romano Prodi at Dromoland Castle, Bush reported, “We just concluded a constructive discussion on our common efforts to help the Iraqi people achieve the stability, prosperity and democracy they seek.”

Iraq was only one of the issues discussed during a summit that Ahern, Bush and Prodi agreed was productive.

All three leaders underscored the importance of the U.S.-EU relationship, economically and politically, and agreed both parties, in the words of Ahern, share “a common set of values based on an unshakeable commitment to democracy, to human rights and the rule of law.”

Prodi elaborated on the close ties between the United States and Europe, saying, “[T]hese ties are not based only on our historic, cultural, political links, but on our rock-solid economic partnership, as well.”

Recapping the summit, Bush said discussions addressed “the many actions our nations are taking to secure our homelands from the threat of terror. We took new steps to strengthen our efforts to freeze and block terrorist finances. And to make travel and transportation safer, we established new guidelines for sharing airline passenger records to improve the way we screen for terrorists while protecting the privacy of innocent travelers. We agreed to increase and improve the sharing of information and intelligence. We pledged to build on this progress by launching a new dialogue on transportation and border security.”

One outcome of the summit was an agreement that ensures compatibility between America’s global positioning system and its future European counterpart, Galileo. The move, he said, will protect the common security, improve the delivery of emergency services and further economic cooperation.

Responding to questions concerning Iraq’s future, Bush said maintaining the country’s territorial integrity “is in all our benefit.”

He also emphasized that on June 30 the United States will be turning over “full sovereignty” to Iraqi leadership. “That means complete, full sovereignty. The Iraqi government will now make the decisions that are necessary to rebuild their country,” the president said, and to hold free elections.

Bush said the United States “will work to stand up an Iraqi security force and police force that is able to function, to work up a chain of command where the Iraqi police and security folks know that they’re working for Iraqis, not for Americans. And we will stay as long as necessary, and then we will leave. We will complete the mission. And the faster the Iraqis take over their own security needs, the faster the mission will end.”

President Bush left Ireland for Turkey, where he will attend the NATO Summit.

STRATEGY FOR STRENGTHENING EU-U.S. ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP OUTLINED

Trade liberalization critical, U.S., EU declare

The increasing integration of the U.S. and European economies has benefited all parties, but trade must be further liberalized to boost global prosperity, generate sustained economic growth and raise living standards, the United States and European Union (EU) asserted in a June 26 declaration on strengthening the transatlantic economic partnership.

The statement, issued in Shannon, Ireland, the site of the U.S.-EU Summit, affirms both parties’ commitment to creating “a multilateral trading system governed by rules,” developing “policies producing strong and sustained economic growth,” supporting efforts to enhance scientific and commercial cooperation, seeking “cooperative means and best practices” to stimulate growth, and encouraging debate and discussion to enhance the transatlantic economic partnership.

The declaration said senior officials from the United States and the European Union have been charged with assessing bilateral economic relations and exploring methods “to eliminate trade, regulatory, and investment impediments to further economic integration.” This senior-level group is tasked with presenting ideas at the next U.S.-EU Summit with the goal of developing “a forward-looking strategy” by early 2005, according to the declaration.

On the same date, the White House released two fact sheets addressing transatlantic cooperation.

The first, “Strengthening the Transatlantic Economic Partnership,” lays out U.S. plans to convene a series of public dialogue sessions and to meet with representatives of business, labor, consumer and environmental groups, and academia to develop the U.S. contribution to the U.S.-EU strategy called for in the declaration.

The second, “Continuing our Cooperation to Expand Transatlantic Trade,” outlines actions taken by President Bush and EU leaders to advance cooperation on trade issues. The leaders:

-- Directed trade ministers to finalize framework agreements in the World Trade Organization’s (WTO’s) Doha trade negotiations by the end of July;

-- Welcomed progress in reducing trade barriers and in expanding regulatory cooperation;

-- Emphasized the need to focus on core areas of the Doha negotiations; and

-- Underscored the “historic opportunity” that exists to reform agricultural trade.

The leaders also welcomed the ongoing bilateral cooperation as evidence of both sides’ commitment to the “Positive Economic Agenda” established by Bush and EU leaders in 2002, to “targeted U.S.-EU regulatory consultations” to minimize divergences that act as trade barriers, and to continued collaboration via the “Federal Markets Regulatory Dialogue,” also initiated in 2002.

EUROPEAN UNION, UNITED STATES ALLIED IN FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS

Declaration addresses “one of the biggest global challenges of our time”

The United States and the European Union (EU) reaffirmed their joint commitment to fight HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases in a declaration issued June 26 at their summit in Shannon, Ireland.

Describing the HIV/AIDS epidemic as “one of the biggest global challenges of our time,” the two parties stated their support for the U.N. Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and expressed their determination “to continue working together to promote the effective operation of this new global mechanism” to halt the disease.

U.S. and European efforts to develop an AIDS vaccine will continue, according to the declaration, as will support for prevention, treatment and patient-care programs.

The declaration also called for a strengthening of the private-sector response to HIV/AIDS and a deeper collaboration between the private sector and U.S. and European governments in responding to the disease.

A fact sheet that the White House released to accompany the declaration outlines the specific U.S.-EU commit

ments to fight HIV/AIDS and recaps President Bush’s initiatives aimed at combating the epidemic.

The texts of the declaration and the fact sheet follow:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Shannon, Ireland)

Text Of U.S.-EU Declaration On Hiv/Aids, Malaria, And Tuberculosis

Dromoland Castle
Shannon, Ireland
26 June 2004

1. The spread of communicable diseases is one of the biggest threats to human life, prosperity, and security. The HIV/AIDS epidemic, in particular, is one of the biggest global challenges of our time. Twenty years after the disease was first identified, it continues to spread rapidly. Its impact is most devastating in regions least able to mount a defence, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, where it is now rolling back many years of progress in human development, worsening poverty and eroding progress towards the internationally agreed development goals. In some parts of Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, HIV/AIDS threatens similar tragedies. Effectively rising to the challenge of HIV/AIDS is a key test for governments, multilateral organisations, the private sector, and civil society in the 21st century.

2. The United States and the European Union welcome the strong leadership, internationally and by many national governments, that is now being demonstrated in responding to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. We also welcome the fact that this leadership is reflected in a significant increase in the resources that we have allocated to fight the epidemic. We are committed to turning the tide on this disease and pledge to work effectively and in coordination with partners, especially in countries facing high current and potential disease burdens, through both bilateral and multilateral means.

3. In recognition of the extent of the crisis and of our joint commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, we are determined to further strengthen our co-operation with a particular focus on the following areas:

Global

4. We support the U.N. Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS. We believe that steps should be taken to address the HIV/AIDS crisis in accordance with the time frames set out in the Declaration.

We have been instrumental in establishing, resourcing, and promoting the effectiveness of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We have supported the promising work of the Global Fund in confronting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. We are dedicated to ensuring that Fund resources are available to countries most severely affected by these diseases. We are determined to continue working together to promote the effective operation of this new global mechanism, including the mobilisation of new resources. We are also determined to ensure that it promptly disburses funding in support of programmes that are directed at prevention, treatment, and the care of people living with HIV/AIDS in recipient countries and that provide affordable access to medicines and commodities.

5. In this context, we underline the importance of the work in the WTO related to paragraph 6 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November 2001 on TRIPS and Public Health. We undertake to cooperate on the corresponding amendment of the TRIPS Agreement in an expeditious manner.

6. Our governments will also continue to support ongoing efforts to develop technologies to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, such as vaccines and microbicides. In the long term, such tools will be a key to reducing and ultimately ending the pandemic. We dedicate ourselves and encourage others, including the private sector, to investing necessary resources and working together collaboratively to accelerate the development of vaccines and preventive technologies.

Country

7. We reaffirm our broad and sustained commitment to supporting national AIDS responses. We endorse the “Three Ones”: ONE agreed HIV/AIDS Action Framework that provides the basis for coordinating the work of all partners; ONE National AIDS Coordinating Authority with a broad-based multi-sector mandate; and ONE agreed country-level Monitoring and Evaluation System.

8. The “Three Ones” are key principles for concerted action at country level, with a view toward achieving the most effective and efficient use of available resources and ensuring rapid action and transparent, accountable, and results-based management. We will work together with UNAIDS and all our partners to ensure our programmes strengthen local capacity for the effective monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programmes. We are determined to support the efforts of UNAIDS to facilitate action-oriented policy dialogue, on progress towards the “Three Ones” principles for concerted AIDS action at the country level, and on issues arising from implementation and coordination of country programmes. In this context, we stand prepared to cooperate with UNAIDS on sharing information and reviewing and strengthening the co-ordination of HIV/AIDS responses at the country level.

Private Sector and Civil Society

9. We recognise the positive response of many private sector corporations, foundations, trade unions and associations, non-governmental and faith-based organizations, and associations of people living with HIV/AIDS in responding to the pandemic. We call for a strengthening of this response and a deepening of collaboration between the EU and U.S. private sectors, with a view to investing in programmes that are directed at the prevention, care, and treatment of HIV/AIDS, particularly in the most affected or threatened countries. We call, in particular, for new efforts to explore opportunities for a greater, better-coordinated engagement by these organisations in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

FACT SHEET

June 26, 2004

U.S.-EU Summit: Fighting the Challenge of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic

“HIV/AIDS is one of the greatest medical challenges of our time. The disease has killed more than 20 million people. Today, 42 million more are living with HIV.”

President George W. Bush

May 27, 2003

In recognition of the extent of the crisis and of our joint commitment to fighting HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, we are determined to further strengthen cooperation between the European Union and the United States. Today, the United States and the European Union

reaffirmed their commitment to combat AIDS, pledging to:

- Support the U.N. Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS;
- Ensure resources from the Global Fund for AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis are available to countries most severely affected by the disease;
- Cooperate on formally amending WTO rules in accordance with our groundbreaking agreement on intellectual property rights and public health;
- Support and accelerate the development of vaccines and technologies to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases; and
- Work to promote donor coordination and civil society and private involvement in the fight against AIDS.

President Bush is leading a global effort to combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic through his historic \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and his commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, to which the United States has pledged more than \$1.96 billion, or 36 percent of all pledges through 2008.

On June 10, 2004, President Bush and his G-8 counterparts endorsed the establishment of a Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, a virtual consortium to accelerate HIV vaccine development by enhancing coordination, information sharing, and collaboration globally.

President Bush announced plans to establish a new U.S. Vaccine Research & Development Center, in addition to the one at the United States National Institutes of Health. The new center will become a key component of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. The United States is investing \$488 million in HIV vaccine development in FY2004, and has requested \$533 million in FY2005.

ONGOING U.S.-EU COOPERATION ON HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY PLEDGED

White House issues fact sheet on transatlantic hydrogen partnership

The United States and the European Union (EU) pledged cooperation on hydrogen research and technology development at their summit in Shannon, Ireland.

“Accelerating the development of the global hydrogen economy,” the White House said in a fact sheet released June 26, “will enhance security of energy supply, increase diversity of energy resources, promote economic growth and job creation, and improve local and global environmental quality.”

The fact sheet outlines joint actions undertaken by the United States and the EU to advance hydrogen technology since the collaboration was launched at the 2003 U.S.-EU Summit.

Following is the text of the fact sheet:

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Shannon, Ireland)
June 26, 2004

U.S.-EU Summit: Cooperation on the Development of the Hydrogen Economy

“With a new national commitment, our scientists and engineers will overcome obstacles to taking these [hydrogen-powered] cars from laboratory to showroom so that the first car driven by a child born today could be powered by hydrogen, and pollution-free.”

President George W. Bush
January 28, 2003

President Bush and his EU counterparts welcomed and encouraged the collaboration between the United States and the European Union on accelerating development of the global hydrogen economy, which will enhance security of energy supply, increase diversity of energy resources, promote economic growth and job creation, and improve local and global environmental quality.

This U.S.-EU collaboration is helping to advance President Bush’s goal that the first car driven by a child born today could be powered by hydrogen fuel cells, and is a

natural extension of the President's \$1.2 billion Hydrogen Fuel Initiative.

This U.S.-EU collaboration was launched at the 2003 U.S.-EU Summit, and has led to a series of meetings on both sides of the Atlantic to advance hydrogen research and technology development and the establishment of harmonized codes, standards, and regulations. Together, the United States and the European Union have:

- Increased coordination of our approaches to hydrogen research, helping to guarantee that research efforts are focused and complementary and make the best use of our facilities and the most effective scientific methods;
- Identified targeted areas of cooperation including fuel cell development, hydrogen storage, hydrogen production, and the necessary codes and standards to support these applications;
- Committed United States' and the European Union's resources to advance research in critical areas such as high-temperature membranes and catalysts for improved fuel cell cost and durability;
- Identified model demonstration programs showing the value of public applications of hydrogen;
- Shared lessons from municipal hydrogen-powered bus demonstrations in San Diego, California and Brussels, Belgium; and
- Explored collaborative applications of new safety techniques for handling hydrogen in transportation applications in America and Europe.

This transatlantic cooperation is intended to support the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE), which held its inaugural meeting in Washington, D.C., in November 2003. The IPHE has helped launch international cooperation on research for high-temperature membranes used in fuel cells, hydrogen storage materials, and renewable hydrogen production. The IPHE combines financial and intellectual resources in a global effort to overcome the remaining obstacles to the commercial adoption and trade of hydrogen technology worldwide. These include finding means to bring consumer costs to a level competitive with other energy sources and to build the infrastructure needed to produce, transport, and safely handle hydrogen and hydrogen-based fuel cells.

Please Note: Most texts and transcripts mentioned in the U.S. Mission Daily Bulletin are available via our homepage www.usmission.ch. Select "Washington File" from the drop-down menu under "News."